

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1-8, 10-14, 16-25, and 27, follows. The remaining claims are reprinted, as a convenience to the Examiner, as they presently stand before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Sub D² 1. (TWICE AMENDED) A method of acquiring program guide information for channels, comprising
E1 receiving the program guide information and a program; and
acquiring the program guide information for each channel by scanning accessible channels while [a] the program being received [program] is not displayed.

C1 2. (TWICE AMENDED) The method of acquiring program guide information for channels as claimed in claim 1, wherein [the] said acquiring [of] the program guide information for each channel comprises obtaining the program guide information of the accessible channels by a tuner while the program received by the tuner is not displayed.

Sub D³ 3. (ONCE AMENDED) A program guiding method in which a program list for channels is displayed in response to a program guide command, the method comprising [the steps of]:
C2 acquiring program guide information of accessible channels in response to the program guide command;
V7 storing the acquired program guide information;
writing a program list on the basis of the stored program guide information; and
displaying the written program list to a user.

Sub D⁴ 4. (TWICE AMENDED) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising [the step of] providing a message indicating that the user must wait until the program list is written.

C3 5. (TWICE AMENDED) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising [the step of]

determining whether the program guide information is effective by comparing a current time to an effective period of stored program guide information, and

C3 proceeding to [the program list] said writing [step] the program list when the stored program guide information is effective, before [the step of] said acquiring the program guide information.

6. (TWICE AMENDED) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 3, wherein [the step of] said acquiring the program guide information comprises [the steps of]:

writing and displaying a program list including the program guide information of channels tuned before a program guide command is executed, from the stored program guide information, and

acquiring the program guide information for each channel by searching for the accessible channels in a background operation while the program list is referred to.

7. (TWICE AMENDED) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 3, wherein [the] said acquiring the program guide information [step] comprises [the step of] determining the sequence of accessing channels by proximity of channels to the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed.

8. (TWICE AMENDED) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 7, wherein [the] said acquiring the program guide information [step] comprises [the step of]

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determining the order of priority of channels having the same proximity to the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed according to a channel up/down command input before corresponding channels are accessed.

9. (NOT AMENDED HEREIN) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 7, wherein an upward or downward direction is preferential when no channel up/down command is executed.

Sub D⁵
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10. (TWICE AMENDED) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 3, wherein [the] said acquiring the program guide information [step] comprises [the step of] searching channels upward or downward from the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed.

11. (TWICE AMENDED) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising [the step of] writing a probability distribution of tuned channels, and wherein said acquiring the program guide information comprises searching the channels [are searched for] in an order of priority according to a probability distribution of channels [in the acquiring step].

12. (TWICE AMENDED) A program guiding method in which a program list for each channel is displayed in response to a program guide command, the method comprising [the steps of]:

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writing and displaying a program list including program guide information of channels tuned before a program guide command is executed, from stored program guide information;

acquiring program guide information for each channel by searching for accessible channels in a background operation while the program list is referred to;

storing the acquired program guide information for each channel; rewriting a program list on the basis of the stored program guide information; and displaying the rewritten program list to a user.

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D 5
cancel.*

13. (TWICE AMENDED) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 12, wherein [the guide information] said acquiring [step] the guide information comprises [the step of] determining a sequence of accessing channels by the proximity of channels to the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed.

14. (TWICE AMENDED) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 12, wherein [the] said acquiring [step] the guide information comprises determining [determines] an order of priority of channels having the same proximity to the channel tuned according to a channel up/down command input before corresponding channels are accessed.

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C 5 sub D 6*

15. (NOT AMENDED) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 13, wherein an upward or downward direction is preferential when no channel up/down command is applied.

C 5 sub D 6

16. (TWICE AMENDED) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 11, wherein [the guide information] said acquiring the guide information [step] comprises [the step of] searching channels upward or downward from the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed.

C 6 sub D 7

17. (ONCE AMENDED) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising [the step of] writing a probability distribution of tuned channels, and wherein the channels are searched for in the order of priority according to the probability distribution of channels [in the search step].

Sub D8

18. (TWICE AMENDED) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 11, wherein [the display] said displaying the written program list [step] comprises [the steps of] displaying a message indicating a status of program guide information in response to the program guide information of a corresponding channel not being stored, and displaying the program guide information of a corresponding channel in response to acquiring the program guide information of channels tuned before the program guide command is executed being acquired in [the] said acquiring the program guide information [step].

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19. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) An apparatus for acquiring program guide information of accessible channels and guiding program guide information acquired in response to a program guide command in a multichannel receiver, the apparatus comprising:

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- a tuner tuning a channel;
- a program guide information detector [, coupled to the tuner,] detecting program guide information introduced via [the] said tuner;
- a memory [, coupled to the program guide information detector,] storing the program guide information for each channel detected by [the] said program guide information detector;
- a key input introducing a user manipulation command such as a program guide command or a channel search command;
- a microprocessor, [coupled to the key input unit, to the tuner, and to the memory,] in response to the manipulation command input via said key input, that [and writing] writes a program list based on program guide information stored in [the] said memory [in response to the manipulation command input via the key input], and
- searches [searching] for accessible channels [in response to the manipulation command input via the key input] by controlling [the] said tuner in a background operation while a user refers to the program list; and

a character signal generator [, coupled to the microprocessor,] generating a character signal corresponding to the program list written by [the] said microprocessor and providing the character signal to a screen.

20. (TWICE AMENDED) The apparatus for acquiring and displaying a program guide command as claimed in claim 19, wherein [the] said microprocessor determines the sequence of accessing channels by the proximity between channels to the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed.

21. (TWICE AMENDED) The program guiding apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein [the] said microprocessor determines the order of priority of channels having the same proximity according to a user's channel up/down command input via [the] said key input before corresponding channels are accessed.
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22. (TWICE AMENDED) The program guiding apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein [the] said microprocessor searches for channels preferentially in an upward or downward direction when no channel up/down command is executed.
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23. (TWICE AMENDED) The program guiding apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein [the] said microprocessor searches for channels upward or downward from the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed.

24. (TWICE AMENDED) The program guiding apparatus as claimed in claim 19, further comprising a probability estimator [, coupled to the microprocessor,] calculating a probability that channels are to be selected, by accumulating a number of times which the channels are tuned, wherein [the] said microprocessor searches for the channels in an order of

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priority according to a probability of tuning by the channels calculated by [the] said probability estimator.

25. (TWICE AMENDED) The program guiding apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein [the] said microprocessor provides to [the] said character signal generator a status message on a message screen in response to the program guide information of a corresponding channel not being stored.

26. (NOT AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the accessible channels include channels accessed by a tuner and channels provided by a line input.

Sub-D⁹

27. (ONCE AMENDED) The program guiding method as recited in claim 3, wherein [the] said acquiring [step] the program guide information comprises [the step of] determining the sequence of accessing channels by proximity of the channels to the channel tuned and by a channel up/down command input just before a channel search is determined.

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28. (NOT AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:
means for detecting program guide information corresponding to channels in relation to a tuned channel; and

means for searching for accessible channels of the channels based upon a command received, the program guide information, and a relation to the tuned channel.

29. (NOT AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the means for searching searches the accessible channels in a preferential manner.